



REGINALD TATE
STATE SENATOR
33rd SENATORIAL DISTRICT

Senate Chamber
State of Tennessee

NASHVILLE

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to convey the importance of the Connected Tennessee partnership and its Computers 4 Kids program.

Led by Governor Phil Bredesen, Connected Tennessee is a public-private partnership that brings together state and local government, community organizations, business leaders, libraries, schools, healthcare institutions and technology providers in an effort to work in every Tennessee county to ensure better broadband access and computer literacy. To accomplish this, Connected Tennessee uses collaborative broadband mapping, local research, and grassroots technology planning in every county and computer connectivity programs.

Through Connected Tennessee's Computers 4 KidsSM (C4K) program, computers are distributed to children in Tennessee who need them most. To date, the C4K program has distributed more than 1,300 computers to children, families and organizations in need across Tennessee, with plans to distribute at least 1,700 more over the coming years.

As you implement the Broadband Data Improvement Act, please make every effort to ensure that Connected Tennessee and its Computers 4 Kids program is eligible for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. As we work together toward economic recovery, it is critical for the federal government to offer funding and support to existing public-private partnerships which have proven effective in bridging the digital divide.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Senator Tate